Louisville - Jefferson County Crime Commission



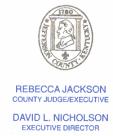
Annual Report 2001



LOUISVILLE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY

CRIME COMMISSION

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March 2002

On behalf of the membership of the Louisville-Jefferson County Crime Commission Board, we are proud to share with you the 2001 Annual Report documenting the scope of Commission activity over the past year. You will find that the Commission has undertaken objectives which greatly enhance the effectiveness of the criminal justice system and which clearly demonstrate the benefit of a systems approach to criminal justice issues. However, we are particularly proud of our role as a catalyst for change in the justice system. Our challenges have been to take on some of the most critical, systemic problems, to research and develop innovative solutions, and to work with policy makers across the system to effect change.

During 2001, the Commission faced a number of critical issues impacting all aspects of the criminal justice system. Response to shrinking budgets, warrant service, juvenile comprehensive strategy, and continued efforts to computerize and improve information sharing represented priority projects for the Commission. Many of these issues ultimately signify conditions to be managed rather than problems to be solved. The Commission, for 34 years, has provided a *neutral forum* for problem-solving and played a key coordination role in addressing complex issues facing all components of the justice system. Building consensus has been a critical part of the Commission's role and our cooperative efforts at the local, state, and federal levels are evident in the programs and achievements highlighted in this Annual Report.

We would like to express our appreciation to the dedicated members of the Crime Commission Board, our professional staff, and all who contributed time and energy to making 2001 a success.

The Commission looks forward to 2002 and the unique challenges facing our community as a result of the tragic events of September 11th. We appreciate your continued support.

Judge Virginia Whittinghill

Virginia Whittinghees

Chair

David L. Nicholson Executive Director





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MISSION STATEMENT



To improve the administration of justice through planning, research, and system-wide coordination of criminal justice initiatives.

The general purpose and function of the Louisville-Jefferson County Crime Commission as delineated in the Louisville and Jefferson County Cooperative Compact Agreement (as authorized in the 1998 Kentucky Acts Chapter 104) includes, but is not limited to, the following:

- 1. To collect and analyze data on the incidence and nature of crime in this community and assess the impact of criminal activities upon the citizens and resources of the City and County.
- 2. To evaluate the capacity of criminal justice agencies and, through a careful study of existing laws, practices and institutions, to recognize their areas of strength and weakness, and to formulate proposals to maintain the former and correct the latter.
- 3. To make and publish from time to time, meaningful documented factual recommendations as will be of assistance to all levels and branches of government in meeting its responsibilities in the area of criminal justice and crime prevention.
- 4. To responsibly stimulate community interest in the problems of criminal justice and crime prevention.
- 5. To develop and recommend to the proper criminal justice authorities programs to reduce crime, and, when possible, to secure and administer state or federal funds for specific projects.
- 6. To recognize the authority and responsibility of criminal justice agencies as the proper areas of administration.







LOUISVILLE-JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIME COMMISSION BOARD

2001 MEMBERSHIP

Judge Virginia Whittinghill, Chair Jefferson District Court

David Stengel, Vice ChairJefferson County Commonwealth's Attorney

Milton Dohoney

Mayor's Office, City of Louisville

Kathy Herron

Board of Aldermen

Colonel Greg Smith

Chief, Louisville Division of Police

Walker Cunningham

Office of the Jefferson County Attorney

Colonel Michael Horton

Secretary, Metropolitan Correctional Department

Colonel John Aubrey

Jefferson County Sheriff

Joanne Weis

Department for Human Services

Marjean Martin

Director, Jefferson County Pretrial Services

Debbie Linnig Michals

Jefferson Circuit Court Clerk's Office

Steve Pence

U.S. Attorney, Western District of Kentucky

Jeffrey Lindsey

Federal Bureau of Investigations

Karl Stankovic

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms

Steve Haag

County Judge/Executive's Office

Dolores Delahanty

Jefferson County Fiscal Court

Colonel William Carcara

Chief, Jefferson County Police Department

Judge Thomas Wine

Chief Judge, Jefferson Circuit Court

Judge William Ryan, Jr.

Chief Judge, Jefferson District Court

Opal Murphy

Jefferson County Legislative Delegation

Sheriall Cunningham

Director, Mental Health Association

Georgia McDaniel

Office of Probation and Parole

Tim Vize

Court Administrator

Daniel Goyette

Executive Director, Jefferson County Public Defender

Appointment Pending

Jefferson County Juvenile Justice Commission

Gary Oetjen

Drug Enforcement Administration

CITIZEN APPOINTEES

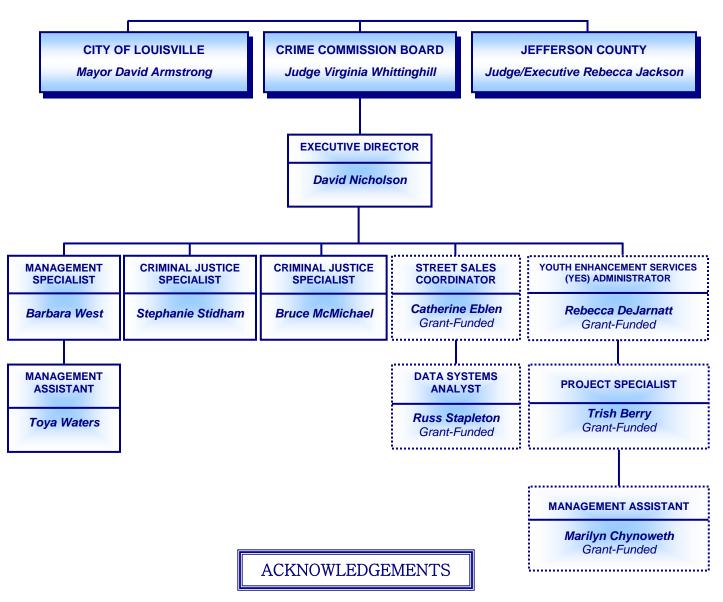
Larry Ball Robert Schmitt Reverend Charles Duncan Louis Willis Diana Muir Appointments Pending





ORGANIZATIONAL CHART

LOUISVILLE-JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIME COMMISSION



Special thanks to the following outgoing Commission Members and elected officials for their contributions to the Crime Commission this past year.

Barbara Davis	Michael Holt	Susan Gunter
Richard Janes	Mark Miller	Rob Powers
Steve Reed	Rick Sanders	Jack Steiner
	Don Steitz	



HISTORY



Established in December 1967, the Louisville-Jefferson County Crime Commission has been in continuous operation for more than 34 years, making it one of the oldest criminal justice planning agencies in the country. The Crime Commission is a City/County agency formed through an agreement between the Jefferson County Judge/Executive, the Mayor of Louisville, Jefferson County Fiscal Court, and the Louisville Board of Aldermen. The Commission is responsible for criminal justice planning, research, and system-wide coordination and is charged with assessing the extent of crime, evaluating law enforcement agencies and procedures, studying crime laws, stimulating community interest in law enforcement, and developing programs to reduce crime.

The Crime Commission is a 34 member Board comprised of key local, state, and federal criminal justice representatives, City and County government officials, as well as citizens representing Louisville and Jefferson County.

The Commission has played key coordinating roles in local and state criminal justice planning, research and program development. The benefits of effective planning are numerous and include improvements in coordination and cooperation; a multidisciplinary analysis of criminal justice problems, programs, and services; and an evaluation of the overall quality of justice. In addition, comprehensive planning provides more effective allocation of resources, the establishment of clear goals, objectives, and priorities, and ultimately results in enhanced service and increased public confidence in the justice system. Through its planning and coordination role, the Commission Board and staff attempt to support the local system's ability to administer justice in a cost-effective, equitable, and efficient manner.

Most importantly, the Commission has provided the community with an impartial forum for discussing pressing issues, most of which require a systemic and coordinated approach to effect change. Coordinated approaches cannot occur without this *neutral* forum that allows agencies to work together to create solutions. These solutions are formulated into policy decisions that complement the systemic efforts of the whole.

Some of our community's key criminal justice programs and initiatives implemented with Crime Commission support over the years are listed below:

- Establishment of the 911 system
- Researched and compiled the Feasibility Study on Local Police Consolidation
- Assisted in the development of Operation Backfire, an enhanced prosecution program for gun violence
- Establishment of the public defender system
- Improved legislation addressing rape/sexual assault, domestic violence, missing/exploited children and child sexual abuse
- Establishment of the VINE (Victim Information and Notification Everyday) Program
- Creation of crime prevention and block watch programs





- Establishment of a 24-hour police patrol system with take-home cars
- Coordinated multi-agency task forces on narcotics, runaway and homeless youth, crimes against children, prostitution and pornography, and organized crime intelligence
- Supported first alternative school programs for youthful offenders
- Promoted public education through a criminal justice cable television series "Crime and Justice"
- Developed the first comprehensive database on drug, alcohol, and violent crime-related activity in Louisville and Jefferson County
- Establishment of the first criminal justice information systems
- Creation of the first shelters for runaways
- Development and implementation of the Jefferson County Court Monitoring Center
- Establishment of the Jefferson County Drug Court/Diversion Project
- Promotion of efforts to consolidate City/County policing services, resulting in merging several functions such as photo labs and the creation of Metro Narcotics and Crimes Against Children Units
- Named one of America's six "Model Criminal Justice Planning Agencies" by the National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice in 1979
- Provided assistance in law enforcement sting operations
- Supported early residential group homes for youth, including alternative to detention facilities
- Promoted establishment of first community-based correctional facilities

- ❖ Participated in the investigation of police corruption in the early 1970's
- Supported professionalization of law enforcement through higher education and in service training
- Supported first police helicopter patrol program
- Supported early court administration programs
- Developed programs to target drunk drivers, including TAP (Traffic Alcohol Program)
- Established a mechanism for ongoing analysis/monitoring of the local jail population
- Provided assistance in the selection process for Police, Fire, and Corrections Chiefs and Annual Performance Appraisals Committees for Police, Fire, and EMS
- Provided assistance in the publication of the final report of Operation PDQ (Prevent Delinquency Quickly)
- Established the local Victim Assistance Network (VAN) which provided a forum for coordination and information exchange among victim assistance providers
- Hosted a series of public forums to enlist community input into the local criminal justice planning process
- ❖ Coordination and submission of numerous federal grant applications, including grants within the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, Local Law Enforcement Block Program, Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services, Victim of Crime Act, and Violence Against Women Act





YEAR IN REVIEW

January

- Staff presented research paper to Crime Commission Board entitled – "Drug Diversion & Prescription Fraud: Issues & Trends"
- Attorney General Janet Reno visited Kentucky to sign consent order lifting the Juvenile Justice decree resulting in the Commonwealth being eligible to receive more federal funds
- The Center for Women and Families presented a staff member with a "Peace in Kentucky Homes" certificate of appreciation
- Staff member received special recognition award from the Louisville Bar Association

February

- Jefferson County Government donated fax machines to District Court Judges for 24-hour Emergency Protective Order use
- Staff attended state Violence Against Women Conference
- Staff served as panelists for the JCPD Oral Examination and Testing process for police officer/cadet applicants

March

- Staff took part in local congressional delegation briefing concerning violence against women projects and grants within the community
- Mayor Armstrong forms the Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Task Force with mission to develop and implement local program
- Staff presentation to the Community Foundation Board
- Staff served as Judge for the 11th Annual County Clerk's "Vote" art contest
- Staff participated in "B" District Town Meeting
- Released Crime Commission 2000 Annual Report
- Staff presentation to the Boy Scouts Lincoln Heritage Council

April

- Staff member participated in international training in Romania
- Kick-off for the Juvenile Comprehensive Strategy initiative to address local juvenile justice system
- Staff member awarded Certificate of Appreciation by Fiscal Court for March of Dimes involvement
- Staff attended Major Narcotics & Gang Strategies Seminar

May

- Presented 12th Annual Drug, Alcohol, and Violent Crime Database Report
- Congresswoman Anne Northup addressed Drug Court graduation class
- Initiated local anti-drug Public Service Announcements featuring JCPD Chief William Carcara & LPD Chief Greg Smith
- Chief Justice Joseph Lambert dedicated Domestic Violence Intake Center within the Hall of Justice
- Staff assisted in review of Kentucky Byrne grants

June

- Staff assisted Judge/Executive in domestic violence/sexual assault issue presentation to Jefferson County Legislative Delegation
- The Circuit Court Clerk, District Court Term, and the County Attorney, announced "Warrant Resolution Week"
- Staff participated in "Parent Alert Kickoff" program to discourage underage drinking





YEAR IN REVIEW (Continued)

July

- ◆ Staff participated in "B" District Town Meeting
- ◆ FY 2002 Crime Commission overall budget enacted:
 - Crime Commission Administration \$340,400
 - > Drug Database \$91,100
 - ➤ YES \$171,700
 - > Totaling \$603,200
- Jefferson County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council awards \$757,570 to 17 community based organizations to assist with Juvenile Justice prevention efforts in the community
- ◆ District Court "Warrant Resolution Week" held July 9th-13th
- Jefferson County Youth Center Director retires from County Government
- ◆ New DUI alcohol level (.08%) became law in Kentucky
- Metro Narcotics Airport Interdiction Unit received the Interdiction Group of the Year Award from the International Narcotics Association

September

- ◆ September 11thTerrorist attacks on America
- Memorial service and local recognition of 1st Responders
- Jefferson County Sheriff John Aubrey named "Sheriff of the Year" by the Kentucky Sheriff's Association
- Commonwealth's Attorney Dave Stengel named "Prosecutor of the Year" by the Kentucky Commonwealth's Attorneys Association
- Began annual performance evaluation process of Louisville Division of Fire & Rescue Service
- Steve Pence confirmed as U.S. Attorney for Western District of Kentucky
- Staff attended Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition Annual Training

November

- Staff toured the Lexington Federal Medical Center
- Jefferson Circuit Court's Automated Jury Selection Process began
- Staff presented Comprehensive Strategy report to the Juvenile Justice community

August

- Staff represented Jefferson County at the Kentucky State Fair
- Governor's Issues conference held in Louisville
- Louisville & Jefferson County successfully completed a community-wide Center for Disease Control Domestic Preparedness Exercise

October

- Staff participated in 'Make the Connection' mentoring program
- Staff presented on domestic violence, elder abuse, and sexual assault issues to high school students participating in Commissioner Delahanty's Jefferson Scholars Program
- Staff member attended the American Probation and Parole Association conference in Lexington
- Staff prepared and presented an overview of the local criminal justice system to over 60 prospective Greater Louisville Council and Mayoral candidates
- LPD's Strategic Planning Leadership Committee presented its Community Oriented Policing final report to the Mayor
- Staff attended Bureau of Justice Statistics/Justice Research and Statistics Association 2001 National Conference
- JCPD presented with the International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Civil Rights Award
- Staff served as panelists for the JCPD Oral Examination and Testing process for police officer/cadet applicants
- ◆ LPD presented with the Webber Seavey Award for its mentoring program

December

- Staff members participated in providing grants training to County employees
- Gang Free Communities Steering Committee was formed (Commission staff are members)
- County Judge/Executive presented staff member with the "Millennium Award" in recognition of service to domestic violence issues





GOALS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

With staff assistance, the Crime Commission performed the following activities in response to the listed four goals for 2001:

GOAL: ENCOURAGE COOPERATIVE INITIATIVES WITH CRIMINAL JUSTICE GOVERNMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS WITHIN LOUISVILLE AND JEFFERSON COUNTY

- □ Continued participation in an international initiative sponsored by the American International Health Alliance, the Humana Foundation, the University of Louisville, and Jefferson County Government. In April, a staff member traveled to Constanta, Romania with another local team member to provide "volunteer" training to high school and college students. Once trained, the students will assist the Constanta's Office for Women in providing "volunteer" service to the community. A second project trip was planned for the Fall, but was canceled due to the aftermath of September 11th.
- In May, Justice Joseph Lambert, Chief Justice, Kentucky Supreme Court, dedicated the centralized Domestic Violence Intake Center (DVIC) within the Hall of Justice (see Appendix A). The DVIC is a collaborative effort between the Jefferson County Attorney, Jefferson County Sheriff, Jefferson Family and District Courts, and the Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk. The Center was formed to provide victims of domestic violence with a central location to apply for court protections and receive advocacy. Crime Commission staff serves in an advisory role on the Center's executive committee and provides technical assistance in procuring operational grants.
- Assisted with the planning and facilitation of "Warrant Resolution Week". The program was a cooperative initiative between the Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk, Jefferson District Court Term, Jefferson County Attorney, and the Jefferson County Sheriff. Its purpose was to address the overwhelming backlog of District Court bench and arrest warrants, as well as criminal summons, that existed within this community. The project occurred from July 9th through July 13th and resulted in over 1,750 individuals coming forward to clear matters pending before the court (see Appendix B).
- □ In the Fall, the Louisville Fire and Rescue Advisory Committee, with staff support from the Crime Commission, initiated the annual performance evaluation process of the fire chief and fire and emergency services.
- Assisted the Jefferson County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council with staffing and development of the "Comprehensive Strategy" plan. The plan is a community-focused, researched-based approach to juvenile delinquency that builds on and unifies the efforts of all service and program providers and integrates the full spectrum of prevention and juvenile justice efforts. Four





workgroups were formed to support the process. The workgroups were *Data Collection and Analysis, Objective Decision–Making, Resource Assessment and Legislative/Policy/Systems Issues,* whose reports were presented to the juvenile justice community in November. A comprehensive three to five year plan with prioritized, systemic and programmatic recommendations, will be developed in 2002.

- Prevention Coordinating Council (DVPCC) and its two committees, the Interagency Committee and the Mortality Review Committee. The Council was formed to serve as the primary forum for discussion and awareness on domestic violence issues within the community. The Council strives to facilitate and encourage collaboration of new initiatives to enhance services available to victims and to hold perpetrators accountable for their crimes.
- □ In a collaborative effort, staff assisted in the development of the Elder Abuse Services Coordinating Committee. This Committee was formed to facilitate coordination and collaboration among local victims of elder abuse service providers.
- Provided staffing support to the Jefferson County Child Victim's Trust Fund Task Force, a local committee of the Kentucky Child Sexual Abuse and Exploitation Prevention Board. This Board reviews applications requesting funds for child sexual abuse prevention and education efforts. Staff assisted in the review and submission of approved applications to the State Board.
- Continued staff support to the Kentucky Supreme Court-established Planning and Coordinating Council (PCC). The PCC provides oversight of practice and procedure for the local courts system.

GOAL: Serve as a Community Resource on Local, State, and Federal-Level Criminal Justice Issues

- On two occasions, staff served as panelists for the JCPD Oral Examination and Testing process for police officer/cadet applicants.
- □ Staff participated in Mayor Armstrong's "Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Task Force". Dr. Bill Smock, Task Force Chair, was tasked to develop and implement a sexual assault response team (SART) within the community. Staff assisted in a variety of capacities including working with the Center for Women and Families, the State Justice Cabinet, and University Hospital, to secure funding for a colposcope to enhance evidence collection in sexual assault cases. It is anticipated that a SART will be operational locally by Fall 2002.
- □ Staff presented at each of the six Jefferson County Grants Management training sessions for County employees held by Finance and Administration.





- Participated in the Public Safety Merger Subcommittee established as part of the Greater Louisville Merger Transition Task Force. The subcommittee reviewed issues affecting police, fire, and Emergency Medical Services (EMS) operations. Crime Commission assisted in the development of a model Public Safety Organizational Chart for the new merged government.
- □ Staff invited to participate in a local congressional delegation briefing concerning violence against women projects and grants within the community.
- At the request of the Greater Louisville Merger Transition Office, staff prepared and presented an overview of the local criminal justice community including costs associated with public safety, crime statistics, and the role of the Crime Commission within the local system (see Appendices C & D). The presentation was attended by over 60 prospective Greater Louisville Mayoral and Council candidates.
- □ Family & Children's Counseling Centers and the Center for Women and Families were awarded funding from the Metro United Way to develop programs and community responses for children who have witnessed domestic violence. Information and recommendations developed from these grants will be submitted to the Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council (DVPCC) and its subcommittees for discussion and assistance in implementation.
- Commission staff and other members of the DVPCC Interagency Committee participated in Family & Children's grant committees conducting a thorough review of the current response to children who witness domestic violence. The final comprehensive report will include recommendations addressing identified gaps within the community's current system of service delivery. It is anticipated the report will be presented to the DVPCC in Spring 2002.
- Office of Technology and the Kentucky Criminal Justice Council for the implementation of a pilot *Electronic Citation Project* in Jefferson County. The funding was awarded to the Crime Commission's Computerization Projects Committee. The project's purpose is to demonstrate a law enforcement officer's ability to enter citation information directly into a mobile data terminal (MDT) and have this information sent electronically to a variety of local criminal justice agencies. Once completed, all key entities within Louisville and Jefferson County will be linked and will have the ability to share approved data from other information systems. The Computerization Committee provided programmatic oversight to the project.
- Staff continued participation in the Jefferson County Adult Sexual Assault Council. The committee is charged to improve the number of and quality of adult sexual assault investigations and prosecutions as well as provide victims with enhanced service. The Committee provides a forum for ongoing information exchange and collaborative efforts between criminal justice entities.





- Provided oversight (personnel and fiscal) to the Youth Enhancement Services (YES) Office in partnership with the Jefferson County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council (JCJDPC). The JCJDPC was established in 1998 to encourage interagency cooperation and collaboration in addressing juvenile crime.
- Provided fiscal oversight for the Street Sales Enforcement Grant in partnership with the Metro Narcotics Unit and the Narcotics Special Prosecution Unit of the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office.
- Created database applications to assist the Metro Narcotics Unit in organizing and maintaining detailed drug-related information in a modern data management system. In addition, eight new database applications were designed and implemented for use by the Crime Commission staff, Metro Narcotics Unit, Jefferson County Police Department (JCPD), and the Louisville Division of Police (LPD).

GOAL: SEEK, RESEARCH, AND SECURE GRANT FUNDING FOR CRIMINAL JUSTICE-RELATED PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS

- Assisted in the submission of numerous state and federal grants that resulted in the receipt of over \$3.7 million dollars in awards (see Appendix E). Staff composed the application and/or provided technical assistance to the following grants:
 - ♦ University of Louisville's Violence Against Women "Combating Campus Violence"
 - Center for Women and Families' Metro United Way "Children's Program"
 - ♦ LPD, JCPD, Commonwealth's Attorney, and the Metro Narcotics Unit "Street Sales Enforcement Project" Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program
 - ◆ Jefferson County Sheriff, Jefferson County Attorney, Center for Women & Families and LPD's, Violence Against Women "S.T.O.P."
 - ◆ Jefferson County Attorney's Community Gun Violence Prosecution, Victims of Crimes Act & Community Oriented Prosecution of Crimes Against the Elderly
 - ◆ LPD and JCPD Violence Against Women "Grants to Encourage Arrest"
 - ♦ LPD's National Institute of Justice "Community Relations", Victim of Crime Act, & Department for Juvenile Justice
 - ♦ JCPD and LPD Local Law Enforcement Block Grants
 - ◆ LPD Law Enforcement Service Fee Program for Driving Under the Influence (DUI)
 - ◆ Jefferson County Sheriff's Office and LPD "Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) Technology"
 - ♦ Jefferson County Human Services, Department of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, "Gang-free Schools and Communities Initiative" & Robert Wood Johnson "Reclaiming Futures"





GOAL: RAISE CITIZEN AND SYSTEM AWARENESS REGARDING CONTEMPORARY CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES

- □ Staff member presented on domestic violence and sexual assault issues to high school students participating in Commissioner Delahanty's Jefferson Scholar's Program.
- □ Compiled and distributed the Crime Commission's Drug, Alcohol, and Violent Crime Database 12th Annual Report outlining local criminal justice-related statistical information on the incidence and nature of crime in this community.
- Compiled and distributed the Crime Commission's 2000 Annual Report.
- Staff provided research assistance for the Jefferson County Judge/Executive's presentation to the Jefferson County Legislative Delegation on possible legislation concerning domestic violence and sexual assault and its impact on the local community.
- Coordinated an awareness campaign with the Metro Narcotics Unit and a local television station to educate citizens on Metro's mission to rid the community of illegal drugs. The campaign consisted of television spots produced by the Partnership for a Drug Free America and featured John L. Smith, Head Football Coach, University of Louisville; Orlando "Tubby" Smith, Head Basketball Coach, University of Kentucky; Chief William Carcara, JCPD; and Chief Greg Smith, LPD.
- □ Staff member, in conjunction with the Center for Women and Families, presented on domestic violence, elder abuse, and sexual assault to the Louisville Community Foundation Board.
- □ The YES Office, under the auspices of the Crime Commission, accomplished the following:
 - Continually updated website http://www.oyes.org which contains information about: what and where youth services are available; who is eligible for these services; the effectiveness of the services; funding available for the services; and a collection of data regarding the youth services.
 - ♦ Identified and surveyed new youth service providers and posted information on website.
 - Coordinated and provided grant-related assistance to current and prospective grantees of juvenile justice funding, including technical assistance meetings, site visits, and disseminating applications (see Appendix F).
- □ In its effort to raise awareness regarding contemporary criminal justice issues, the following special presentations were made to the Board:
 - Center for Women & Families annual report presentation
 - ♦ Metro Narcotics Unit overview
 - "Drug Diversion and Prescription Fraud: Issues and Trends"





- Governor's Office of Technology "System Integration and Compatibility"
- ♦ Demonstration of JCPD Mobile Data Terminals
- ♦ LPD and JCPD Consolidated Records Management System
- ♦ Jefferson County Corrections Jail Information System
- ◆ Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF) Crime Gun Trace Reports "The Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative"
- ♦ Kentucky 'Crime Check' Program
- ♦ LPD Cold Case Squad
- ♦ Kentuckiana Crime Stoppers
- ♦ JCPD Baker District Citizens' Advisory Board
- ♦ Louisville and Jefferson County Drug, Alcohol, and Violent Crime Database 12th
 Annual Report
- University of Louisville Clinical Forensic Medicine "The Group" and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) Program
- ♦ OxyContin Prescription Drug Abuse Task Force
- ♦ Kentucky Correctional Institution for Women
- ♦ Jefferson Circuit Court Automated Jury Selection Project
- ♦ Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Update on Terrorism
- ♦ Jefferson County Attorney DUI Prosecution Initiative
- Six 30-minute episodes of the "Crime and Justice" series were developed, produced and aired on Insight Cable public access GLTV Channel 25 under the direction of Special Advisor, Tom Atkins. The episodes produced during 2001 included the shows listed below:

STAFF SERVICES

In addition to providing staff service to numerous committees, Crime Commission staff holds membership in the following committees and subcommittees:

- □ Elder Abuse Services Coordinating Committee
- Family & Children's Counseling Center "Children Who Witness" Community Response Committee
 - ♦ Public Awareness & Education Subcommittee





- ♦ Services/Intervention Subcommittee
- ♦ Organization/Infrastructure Subcommittee
- Gang Free Communities Steering Committee
- □ JCPD & LPD Domestic Violence Project Committees
- □ Family Court EPO Subcommittee
- Mayor's Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Task Force
- □ Champions of Jefferson County
- ☐ Kentucky Violence Against Women Act Grant Review Committee
- ☐ Kentucky Criminal Justice Council's, Unified Criminal Justice Information System Committee
 - ♦ Automated Warrant System Work Group
- Kentucky Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Grant Review Committee
- ☐ Jefferson County Adult Sexual Assault Council
- Jefferson County Judicial Reform Committee
- ☐ Jefferson County Child Protection Community Council
- Jefferson County Drug Court Executive Committee
- Jefferson County Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Council
- Jefferson County Domestic Violence Prevention Coordinating Council
 - ♦ Mortality Review Subcommittee
 - ♦ Interagency Subcommittee
- Exploited Children's Help Organization (ECHO)
 - ♦ Advocacy Committee
 - ♦ Newsletter Committee

Staff are members of the following organizations:

- National Association of Criminal Justice Planners
- National Criminal Justice Association
- □ National Sheriffs' Association
- ☐ Justice Research and Statistics Association
- □ Kentucky Jailers' Association
- Kentucky Council on Crime and Delinguency, Inc.
- □ Kentucky Women Law Enforcement Network

Staff participated in the following:

- Community Initiatives
 - ♦ Community Foundation Forum





- ♦ Downtown Management District Annual Meeting
- ♦ Center for Women and Families Celebration of Service
- ♦ Metro United Way Forum and Community Intervention Team Meetings
- ♦ Jefferson County Public Schools "Middle School Connection"
- ♦ Louisville Central Area, Inc., Annual Meeting
- ♦ Project Warm
- Fund for the Arts
- ♦ Jefferson County Cybercycle event
- ♦ Crusade for Children
- ♦ Metro United Way
- Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation
- ♦ March of Dimes "Walk America"
- Department for Human Services' Holiday Line
- ♦ Red Cross Blood Drives

Training Opportunities

- ♦ Becoming a Better Communicator
- ♦ Seminar on Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner Programs
- ♦ Conference on Web Site Development and Design
- ♦ Kentucky Crime Prevention Coalition Annual Training
- ♦ Major Narcotics & Gang Strategies Seminar
- ♦ Bureau of Justice Statistics and Justice Research and Statistics Association 2001 National Conference, "Justice Statistics for Justice Policies: Using What We Know to Inform What We Do"
- ♦ The *Hands-On Web Site* Workshop
- American Probation and Parole Association "Community Prevention"
- National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges "A Forum on Family Court"

As a planning agency, it is imperative to communicate the opinions and concerns from a variety of constituency groups. This sharing of information affords area policy makers the opportunity to understand the dynamics of a particular issue and make informed decisions. Crime Commission staff respond to citizen inquiries on a timely and efficient basis. Whenever possible, staff attempt to answer citizen questions and/or requests directly or refer them to the appropriate agency.

To facilitate two-way communication, the Commission has a website that is maintained and updated by Jefferson County Information Services. The site includes the mission, Board and Staff membership, current reports, and the E-mail address. The web page can be reached through Jefferson County Government's site address at http://www.co.jefferson.ky.us/cc





CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM OVERVIEW

The local "criminal justice system" is not really a system. It is an array of agencies and organizations funded and controlled by various governmental and non-governmental entities. Each agency or organization has its own responsibility and specialized role to perform. The criminal justice system is one of the only areas in which an individual and/or case can potentially access all levels of government (city, county, state, and federal). To understand how the "system" operates, one must know which agencies are involved and their statutory authority or scope of responsibility.

A true "criminal justice system" has collaboration, coordination, and comprehensive systemic planning that include all levels of government. There must be a *neutral forum* that allows this process to take place.

In addition, many services required to help prevent crime and make communities safe are provided by non-criminal justice agencies, including those with a primary mission for public health, education, welfare, public works, and housing. Citizens, public, and private sector organizations have joined with criminal justice agencies to prevent crime and make neighborhoods safe.

Following is a listing and brief description of the partnering agencies within our local criminal justice system.

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Jefferson County Sheriff Office (JCSO)

The JCSO is a county agency responsible for the collection of county taxes, security of the courts, and the service of legal process and orders of the court within the boundaries of Jefferson County.

Louisville Division of Police (LPD)

LPD is responsible for providing policing services to the City of Louisville. LPD is the largest local police department in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Jefferson County Police Department (JCPD)

JCPD is responsible for providing policing services to the areas of unincorporated Jefferson County. JCPD is the second largest police department in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.

Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI)

The FBI is a law enforcement organization within the U.S. Department of Justice. The FBI's mission is divided into five functional areas: Criminal Law Enforcement; Foreign Counterintelligence; Investigative and Operational Support; Law Enforcement Services; and Direction, Control and Administration.





Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)

The DEA is a law enforcement organization within the U.S. Department of Justice. Its mission is to enforce the controlled substances laws and regulations of the United States and to recommend and support non-enforcement programs aimed at reducing the availability of illicit controlled substances on the domestic and international markets.

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF)

ATF is a law enforcement organization within the U.S. Department of Treasury with unique responsibilities dedicated to reducing violent crime, collecting revenue, and protecting the public. ATF enforces the Federal laws and regulations relating to alcohol, tobacco, firearms, explosives and arson.

PROSECUTION

Jefferson County Attorney

The County Attorney is a county agency responsible for the prosecution of all cases brought before the District Court. The County Attorney serves as legal counsel to Jefferson County Fiscal Court and promotes efforts in areas such as education, crime prevention, and intervention.

Commonwealth's Attorney

The Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney is a state agency responsible for felony prosecutions and the Jefferson County office is the busiest felony prosecutorial office in Kentucky. It is the advisor to the Grand Jury and provides legal advice to the police, as well as victim services.

United States Attorney

The United States Attorney is a component of the U.S. Department of Justice and serves as the nation's principal litigator under the direction of the Attorney General. The U.S. Attorney is responsible for the prosecution of criminal cases brought by the Federal government and the prosecution and defense of civil cases in which the United States is a party.

DEFENSE

Private Defense Bar

All citizens accused of a crime who may be punished upon conviction by loss of liberty or a fine in excess of \$500 have a right to counsel under the state and federal constitutions. For those who do not qualify for appointment of a Public Defender, private attorneys are available.





Department of Public Advocacy (Jefferson County Public Defender)

If a defendant in a criminal case cannot afford to retain the services of a private attorney, the Court appoints the Public Defender upon a determination of indigency. A similar right to counsel exists for juveniles and for individuals responding to petitions for involuntary hospitalization due to mental illness. Locally, such representation is provided by the Louisville-Jefferson County Public Defender Corporation, the first and longest-serving office of its kind in the State.

JUDICIAL/COURTS SYSTEM

There are two court systems within the Commonwealth – state and federal. Jefferson County's state courts include; District, Circuit, and Family. Two levels of appellate courts are also represented locally, Kentucky Court of Appeals and the Kentucky Supreme Court. The local Federal court system will not be addressed in this report.

Jefferson District Court

The Jefferson District Court is a court of limited jurisdiction. Ninety percent of all Kentuckians involved in court proceedings appear in District Court. Matters before this court can include; misdemeanors, traffic offenses, felony preliminary hearings, and civil cases involving \$4,000 or less. In Jefferson County, there are 23 District Judges who serve 4-year terms.

Jefferson Circuit Court

The Circuit Court is a court of general jurisdiction that hears cases involving civil actions of more than \$4,000 and/or felony criminal matters with one or more years of incarceration. It hears appeals from District Courts and administrative agencies. Jefferson Circuit Court cases come before Circuit Court by way of the Grand Jury. In Jefferson County there are 17 Circuit Judges who serve 8-year terms.

Jefferson Family Court

The Jefferson Family Court, which began in 1991 (Kentucky's first), specializes in family law with the assignment of all cases relating to an individual family to a single judge. Family Court is comprised of five District and four Circuit Court Judges.

Kentucky Court of Appeals

The Court of Appeals is exactly what its title implies. Nearly all cases come to it on appeal from a lower court. If a case is tried in District or Circuit court, and the losing parties involved are not satisfied with the outcome, they may ask for a higher court to review the correctness of the trial court's decision.

Some cases, like criminal case acquittals and divorces, may not be appealed. In a divorce case, however, child custody and property rights decisions may be appealed.





Cases are not retried in the Court of Appeals. Only the record of the original court trial is reviewed, with attorneys presenting the legal issues to the court for a decision.

Kentucky Supreme Court

The Kentucky Supreme Court is the court of last resort and the final interpreter of state law. It hears appeals of decisions from the lower state courts. Cases which involve the death penalty, life imprisonment or imprisonment for 20 years or more go directly from the Circuit Court level where the cases are tried, to the Supreme Court for review.

A case which comes before the Supreme Court for review is not retried. There are no witnesses, juries or testimony. The case is presented to the Supreme Court by attorneys with written briefs and oral arguments addressing the legal issues which the Court must decide.

Administrative Office of the Courts

The Administrative Office of the Courts, established in 1976, serves as staff for the Commonwealth's Chief Justice of the Supreme Court. It also acts as fiscal agent of the Court of Justice; maintains data processing systems for the courts; disperses and maintains supplies and equipment for the entire court system; and oversees the state pretrial and juvenile services programs.

Grand Jury

The Grand Jury is a group of private citizens called to Grand Jury duty for one month. It hears evidence presented by the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney and in certain circumstances, the defendant. If the evidence presented warrants court action, the Grand Jury votes to issue Indictments – formal charges of wrongdoing.

Jefferson County Pretrial Services

Pretrial Services is a state agency within the Administrative Office of the Courts, created by legislation in 1976. This legislative action required the initiation of a statewide pretrial services program. The pretrial services officer is a neutral information-gathering arm of the court. The data collected is utilized by the trial courts of Kentucky to make informed decisions pertaining to bail.

Court Administrator

The Court Administrator serves under the administrative direction of the Chief Judges of District and Circuit Courts. The Administrator acts as general liaison among court officials, the public, and the Central Administrative Office of the Courts system. The Court Administrator is responsible for case flow and jury management, and also compiles statistical reports, assists in the recruitment, selection, and training of specific court personnel and coordinates judicial education programs.





Jefferson Circuit Court Clerk

The Jefferson County Circuit Court Clerk is an elected official who serves a 6-year term. The Clerk is supported by state personnel and administration. The Clerk serves both the Circuit and District Courts and is the administrative and clerical officer of the Jefferson County judicial system. The Clerk's responsibilities include: maintaining court records, files and dockets; collecting fees, fines and bond money; and issuing driver licenses.

DETENTION

Jefferson County Metropolitan Correctional Department

The Department is a County agency responsible for providing comprehensive correctional services including secure incarceration, community alternatives and self-improvement opportunities for those committed to its care, custody and control.

Jefferson County Youth Detention Services

Youth Detention Services is a division of the Jefferson County Department for Human Services. The Division works with the Jefferson County District Court Juvenile/Family Session to place youth offenders in appropriate levels of custody or supervision pending court disposition. Juveniles are placed in the least restrictive environment that may include Community Supervision, Non-Secure Group Home Placement or Secure Detention.

Probation and Parole

Probation and Parole is a state division of the Kentucky Department of Corrections. Its mission is to protect the citizens of the Commonwealth through the supervision of offenders placed on probation or parole. Officers also provide investigative services to the courts and the Parole Board, rehabilitation services to offenders, and employment and home placement.

OTHER

Department for Human Services

The Jefferson County Department for Human Services is a County agency charged to strengthen the community through a coordinated and comprehensive human service delivery system. The Department provides a broad array of community services and support and has four divisions: Family Services; Youth Detention Services and Community Development; Office for Women; and a Support Services Unit.





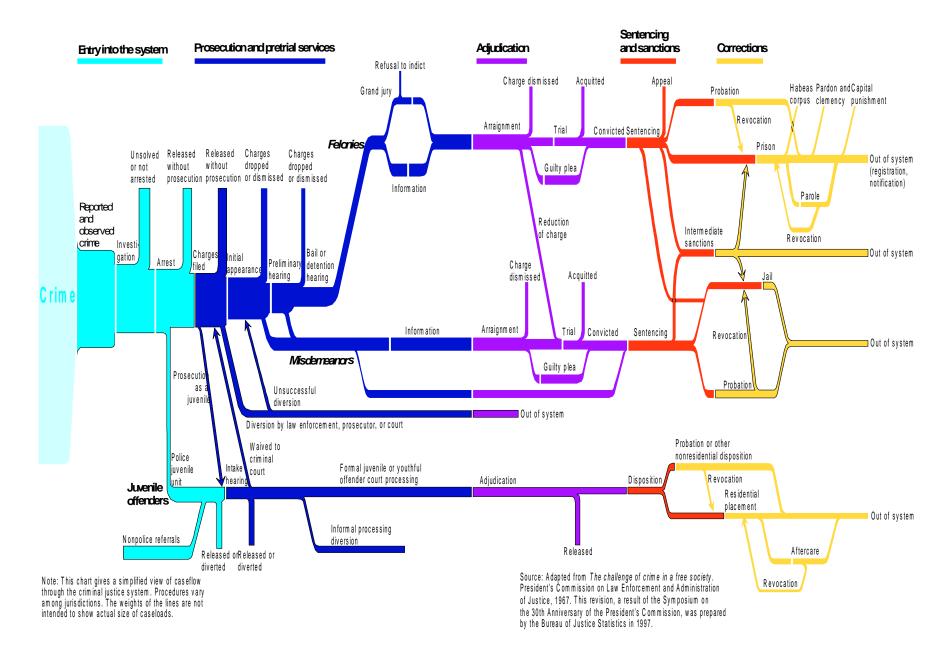
Mental Health Association of Kentucky

The Mental Health Association of Kentucky is a statewide organization with a mission to promote mental health; to prevent mental illness; and to improve the care and treatment of the mentally ill.

To illustrate the complexity of the criminal justice system, the U.S. Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics, model criminal justice flowchart, depicted on the next page, represents the myriad of variables and decision points within the system. Although there may be minor differences, this flowchart accurately reflects our local process.

As you can see, persons charged with the day-to-day response to crime are expected to exercise judgment within the limits established by law. In essence, these individuals must decide whether or not to take action, where the situation fits in the scheme of law, rules, and precedent, and which official response is appropriate. Knowing this only reinforces the necessity for a *neutral forum* to enhance collaboration, coordination, and comprehensive systemic planning that includes all agencies and organizations having a role in the decision process. In its challenging role of "planning, research, and system-wide coordination of criminal justice initiatives", the Crime Commission serves as this *neutral forum*.

What is the sequence of events in the criminal justice system?



'Instead of days in lag time, we're talking hours in lag time'

Center speeds help for abuse victims

By SHANNON TANGONAN The Courier-Journal

Jefferson County has created a center that could cut the time victims of domestic violence spend seeking legal protection from days to hours and help them navigate the legal maze.

The Domestic Violence Central Intake Center on the first floor of the Hall of Justice at Sixth and Jefferson streets is a self-described "one-stop shop" for abuse victims.

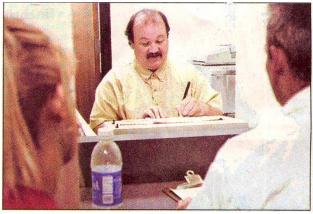
There, victims of domestic violence can receive the help they needfrom completing paperwork for emergency protective orders to receiving referrals for shelter or clothing.

"We can't eradicate domestic violence, but it will make it easier for victims," said Circuit Court Clerk Tony Miller. "We're trying to streamline and cut a lot of red tape." Although the center will be officially dedicated today, it already has served 425 people since it began preliminary operations Feb. 1, said Bill Patteson, a spokesman for the county attorney's office. The facility became fully operational May 1.

"This courthouse is very intimidating-especially if you're a victim of this type of offense," said Jefferson County Attorney Irv Maze, whose office handles about 5,000 domestic violence cases a year, "You come down her, and you think everyone's against you."

Under the old system, victims who often were already dealing with traumatic situations would be sent at least two places to obtain legal protection, said District Court Judge Jacquelyn Eckert.

Eckert, who has been on the bench for almost three years, represents



BY MICHAEL CLEVENGER, THE COURIER-JOURNAL Deputy clerk Ashley Bartlett filled out an emergency protective order at the Domestic Violence Central Intake Center.

one of the 30 advocacy agencies that have worked over two years to create the center—one of the recommendations made in a 1998 report by a national domestic violence consultant who studied cases in Jefferson County.

At the center, an advocate is the first person an abuse victim meets with. Then a clerk takes information for a criminal complaint, a civil emergency protective order-or both. An assistant county attorney on site reviews the case and faxes the paperwork to the home of an on-call judge, who within minutes can fax back a signed order that a Jefferson County sheriff's

deputy can serve on the perpetrator.

"Instead of days in lag time, we're talking hours in lag time," Eckert said.

All this takes place within a locked office guarded by a deputy sheriff. Off to the side, children can play in a room filled with books, toys and games. The whole point is to make the system less frustrating, officials said.

"I suspect some people gave up, just walked away" over the years, said Lt. Col. Carl Yates, a spokesman with the county sheriff's office.

Lynnie Meyer, president of the Center for Women and Families, said clients who have used the center "aren't having to navigate the maze of the legal system."

See CENTER Page 8, col.4,this section

Center aids victims of abuse faster

That's rewarding to Deputy Frank Gruber, who is assigned to the center. "They have just left a violent situation, some have fresh black eyes," Gruber said. But there's a sense of satisfaction in seeing "some relief when they leave us." The central intake system is a pilot program funded by several grants. It could run indefinitely and be expanded to 24 hours."

It operates from 3:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. Monday through Friday.

When the center is not open, victims can seek help at the traffic court windows in the Hall of Justice.

The center will be officially dedicated in a ceremony at 10:30 a.m. today in Courtroom 104

in the Hall of Justice. The center will be dedicated to the nine victims who died because of domestic violence last year, officials said.

"The lives of those victims who died last year were not in vain," Eckert said.

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

EDITORIALS • ·WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 2, 2002

Tracking down the wanted

"Not all unserved

involve... dire

is serious in its

crimes, but each

warrants

own way."

HE huge backlog of unserved criminal warrants in Jefferson County frustrates everyone except the bad guys. It also frustrates justice.

Given the scope of the problem, and the damage it inflicts on the credibility and effectiveness of law enforcement, the local crime commission is right to make it a target of systematic study and

reform.

Filling in all the cracks will never be possible, especially when it comes to finding people who don't want to be found.

But a more systematic approach, with better coordination and tracking, more targeted responsibilities

and a clearer set of priorities, certainly should be possible. That much is clear from some of the simple steps that have already been taken, such as ensuring that everyone jailed is checked for outstanding warrants and assigning officers in each police district to tracking down those named in warrants. The scope of the problem is beyond doubt. The backlog of unserved warrants had grown to 70,000 before a controversial purge cut it by ore than half and a special warrant resolution week in district court reduced it by another 1,800.

The seriousness of the problem is equally without doubt. Three women have been murdered in recent years by men for whom

arrest warrants had already been issued.

Not all unserved warrants involve such dire crimes, but each is serious in its own way.

Practical realism warranted the decision to cut down the backlog to more manageable proportions by purging the most flawed, least promising and least serious cases. But each one purged represents a

failure of justice, and the reluctance of District Judge William Ryan to authorize more purges is understandable.

The key, however, is to devise ways to continue to improve the success rate in the future and to ensure that warrants representing clear threats to public safety receive clear and continuing priority.

The Courier-Journal

LOUISVILLE - JEFFERSON COUNTY PUBLIC SAFETY

	Personnel		Dispatched Calls for Service	
	Sworn	Civilian		
Louisville Division of Police	743	332	438,980	
Jefferson County Police	500	226	114,678	
Louisville Fire and Rescue	Fire	EMT/ Paramedic		
21 Fire House Locations	543	94	54,000	10,000 - Fire
				44,000 - EMS
Jefferson County Volunteer Fire Departments	Career	Volunteer		
21 Fire Protection Districts	301	764	13,686	
Jefferson County EMS	EMT/ Paramedic			
	135		41,237	
Jefferson County Corrections	Sworn	Civilian		
-	488	150		

- Personnel numbers based on Fiscal Year 2002 (July 2001 through June 2002) data
- Dispatched Calls for Service based on Calendar Year 2000 data.

Fiscal Year 2002 TOTAL CITY/COUNTY OPERATING BUDGET (July 2001 through June 2002) Including Public Safety Budgets

City of Louisville	\$389,538,800
Jefferson County	\$242,060,700
Total Operating Budget:	\$631,599,500
FY 2002 Public Safety Budgets	
Louisville Division of Police	\$ 66,876,000
Louisville Division of Fire	\$ 42,310,800
Jefferson County Police Department	\$ 48,756,100
Jefferson County EMS	\$ 6,668,800
Jefferson County Corrections	\$ 37,258,300
Total Budget:	\$ 201,870,000
* Does not include 21 County Volunteer Fire Districts	
Louisville Police/Fire Combined Budget:	\$ 109,186,800
Percentage of City Operating Budget:	28%
Jefferson County Police/EMS/Corrections Combined Budget	\$ 92,683,200
Percentage of County Operating Budget:	38%
Public Safety Departments Percentage of Combined City/County Operating Budgets	32%

LOUISVILLE-JEFFERSON COUNTY CRIME COMMISSION 2001 Grant Research/Submission Assistance (as of 12/31/01)

		Requested *		Awarded *	Pending *
Jefferson County Attorney					
VAWA Intake Center	\$	87,297	\$	87,297	
VOCA Intake Center	\$	39,613	\$	39,613	
Elderly Community Prosecution	\$	200,000	\$	-	X
VAWA Investigator Grant	\$	55,160	\$	55,160	
Gun Violence Community Prosecution	\$	480,000	\$	-	X
Subtotal	: \$	862,070	\$	182,070	
Department of Human Services (DHS)					
OJJDP Gang Grant	\$	150,000	\$	150,000	
Reclaiming Futures	\$	250,000	\$, -	Х
SAMHSA	\$	10,000		lot Awarded	
Subtotal	: \$	410,000	\$	150,000	
Verith Enhancement Comisso (VEC) **					
Youth Enhancement Services (YES) **	Ф	171 700	Ф	171 700	
Subtatal	\$. c	171,700	\$ \$	171,700	
Subtotal	. Þ	171,700	Þ	171,700	
Jefferson County Police Department (JCPD)					
Domestic Violence Unit	\$	400,000	\$	400,000	
Street Sales Enforcement/Drug Database **	\$	522,424	\$	506,751	
Subtotal	: \$	922,424	\$	906,751	
Laviavilla Division of Balica (LDD)					
Louisville Division of Police (LPD)	Φ	20 520		let Avrended	
VOCA Homicide Advocate	\$	39,539		Not Awarded	
VAWA Felony Unit Detectives VAWA District Detectives	\$	141,310	\$ \$	•	
	\$	400,000		400,000	
COPS Video Cameras	\$ \$	750,000	\$		
NIJ Community Relations Grant	φ	259,557	_	Not Awarded	
Byrne KidTroop Byrne Cold Case	\$ \$	133,105 44,639	\$ \$	133,105 44,639	
Byrne Elderly Unit	φ		\$	116,412	
Byrne Alcohol	\$ \$ \$	116,412	\$ \$		
DJJ Juvenile Mentoring	Φ	128,285 70,856		128,285 Not Awarded	
TAP/BUI Grant	Φ	44,000		44,000	
LLEBG	φ \$	507,380	\$ \$	507,380	
Subtotal		2,635,083		2,265,131	
Gubiotar	Ψ	2,033,003	Ψ	2,203,131	
Jefferson County Sheriff's Office					
Intake Center Deputy	\$	31,285	\$	31,285	
COPS	\$	562,000	1	lot Awarded	
Subtotal	: \$	593,285	\$	31,285	
Center for Women and Families					
Metro United Way Children's Program	\$	52 000	Φ	52 000	
,	\$	52,000 33,135	\$ ¢	52,000 33,135	
VAWA Colposcope Subtotal		33,135 85,135	\$ \$	33,135 85,135	
Subtotal	. φ	00,100	φ	05,135	
University of Louisville					
VAWA Campus Violence	\$	400,000	\$	-	X
Subtotal	: \$	400,000	\$	-	
TOTAL	: \$	6,079,697	\$	3,792,072	

^{*} Amounts requested/awarded do not include match.

^{**} YES & Drug Database within Crime Commission cost center.

The Courier-Journal

Important kid stuff

adly, some of today's sweetest babies will be tomorrow's juvenile delinquents.

And some kids live in circumstances that put them at high risk of delinquency.

For example, children who live in poverty, or in households where the adults are poorly educated or are delinquent themselves-children who, for whatever reason, live unstructured and unsupervised lives-stand the greatest chance of losing their way.

The juvenile crime rate is down, but it's still of concern. Congress and the states have responded by creating tougher penalties for youngsters who commit crimes. They have also designated money to help fund intervention programs.

These programs are making a difference. They're also cost-effective: It's cheaper to try to prevent a child from getting into trouble than to pay for punishment and rehabilitation. Last week, 17 Jefferson County programs were given \$757,570 in state grants to help provide at-risk youth with the kind of support all young people need to grow and thrive.

Some of the programs provide after-school help, some provide mentoring, some care for children during the day. Some teach life skills, social skills, or conflict resolution.

But at root, all of them do the very same thing. They provide at-risk youth with daily affirmation and encouragement, with a stable adult relationship and with a peer group. They give youth an opportunity to participate and learn-to connect with a broader Louisville community.

All children need nurturing. Unfortunately, what a family can offer isn't always enough. That's when schools, churches and non-profit agencies like these 17 can make a big difference.

This \$757,570 was money very well spent.